

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 16-25, 27-32, 34-37, 39-41 and 43-47 are pending. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 16-25, 27-32, 34-37, 39-41 and 43-47 have been rejected. No claims have been allowed. Claims 1, 11, 24, 31, 36 and 41 have been amended. Claims 29-30 have been canceled. No claims have been added herein.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 11-14, 16, 20, 24-25, and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application Publication No. EP1157906 to Bacchiaz, et al. (“Bacchiaz”). In light of the claim amendments made herein, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In order to anticipate a claim, a reference must teach every material element of that claim. All independent claims have been amended herein to specify in some manner that the respective gaming machine or device have multiple locks and multiple secured regions, and that access is provided to the different secured regions via the respective locks. It is respectfully submitted that none of the recited prior art references alone or in combination teaches such an arrangement, such that the present claims as amended are patentable over the prior art of record.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020142831 to Mattice, et al. (“Mattice”) in view of Bacchiaz. In addition, claims 7-9 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Mattice in view of Bacchiaz in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,374,653 to Gokcebay, et al. (“Gokcebay”) and further in

view of U.S. Patent No. 6,709,333 to Bradford, et al. (“Bradford”). Further, each of claims 17-19, 21-23, 31-32, 34-37, 39-41 and 43-47 stand rejected over some combination of Mattice, Bacchiaz, Gokcebay and/or Bradford. In light of the claim amendments made herein, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In order to render a claim as obvious, a combination of references must teach or suggest every material element of that claim. All independent claims have been amended herein to specify in some manner that the respective gaming machine or device have multiple locks and multiple secured regions, and that access is provided to the different secured regions via the respective locks. It is respectfully submitted that none of the recited prior art references alone or in combination teaches such an arrangement, such that the present claims as amended are patentable over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in proper form and condition for patentability, and request a Notification of Allowance to that effect. It is believed that no fees are due at this time. Should any fee be required for any reason related to this document or application, however, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No.50-0388, referencing Docket No. IGT1P102. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below with any questions or concerns relating to this document or application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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